THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) According to available information a Workshop on "New Labour Policy and Employment Generation" was organised by All-India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO) in Bombay on 25-9-93. The recommendations of the workshop have not yet been sent to the Government. However, in the workshop a memorandum was submitted to the Minister of State for Labour by AIMO. The memorandum inter alia suggested :

(1) Simplification of Labour laws for its effective implementation.

(2) Formulation of a National Wage Policy in order to encourage efficiency and productivity.

(3) Formulation of an employment oriented Labour Policy.

(4) Establishment of special economic zones and formulation of composite labour laws for such economic zones.

(5) National Renewal Fund assistance to the private sector units.

The Government has taken note of the suggestions made in the memorandum. Streamlining of Labour laws, wage regime, promotion of employment and separation/terminal benefits for workers is a continuous process. Now a new Industrial Relations Law is being formulated with the objective of increasing productivity, generating higher rates of employment growth and establishment of harmonious industrial relations which will take care of industries irrespective of the zones of their location.

Computation of the Families under Poverty Line

*53. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the last date of computation of the numbers of families under the poverty line ;

(b) whether Government have directed the State Governments to update the above information ; and

(c) if so, by when the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The latest available estimate of the number of persons living below poverty line is for the year 1987-88.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission estimates the number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line. Statewise, on the basis of quinquennial surveys on household consumption expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The year of the next quinquennial survey is 1993-94.

Loss Suffered by STC on Import of Edible Oil

*54. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Business Pioneer of November 16, 1993 under the caption 'STC lost Rs. 9 crore on edible oil Import deal ;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation (STC) placed an order for the purchase of 30,000 tonnes of Palmolein with certain Malaysian firm without contacting established refineries in Malaysia, if so, what are the deails and the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether it is a fact that STC lost Rs. 9 crore in this deal and if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(e) if so, whether Government have made any enquiry into the allegations relating to the said import deal of palmolein by STC, if so, what are the details of investigations made in this regard ?